(c) whether any time-bound action-plan has been drawn-up to completely eliminate this shameful practice in a phased manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987, which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of ongoing development programmes for the benefit of child Labour and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour. National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) have been set up in 100 districts in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The employment conditions of children in other occupations and processes are regulated under the Act.

(c) and (d) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem to be dealt with through sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for complete elimination of child labour, beginning with the children working in hazardous occupations.

Committee on Problems of Industrial Child Labour

4606. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was constituted to study the problems of children working in hazardous industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Government has not constituted any Committee to study the problems of children working in hazardous industries.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Unemployed Persons

†4607. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons in the country, state-wise, as on the 31st January, 2002;

(b) whether Government have formulated any policy to provide employment to the literate and illiterate unemployed persons; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) State-wise number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on 31.2.2002 is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The approach to Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objective for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention ould be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.